

Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. - 19. (canceled)

20. (new) A switching device for controlling at least two motors, the device comprising:

a single converter, wherein the at least two motors are connected to the converter by a power line and a feedback line, respectively;

at least one logic module connected to the converter and configured to evaluate signals received from the converter and configured to generate a control signal for controlling the motors.

21. (new) The switching device according to claim 20, wherein the converter has an interface for selecting one of the motors to be controlled, wherein the interface is connected by a signal line to the at least one logic module.

22. (new) The switching device according to claim 21, wherein the power lines and the feedback lines each have a switch, wherein the at least one logic module is adapted to switch with the control signal at least two of the switches that are configured to switch the respective power line and the respective feedback line of the respective one of the motors to be controlled.

23. (new) The switching device according to claim 22, wherein the at least two switches are multiplexers.

24. (new) The switching device according to claim 22, wherein the at least two switches are switchable simultaneously.

25. (new) The switching device according to claim 20, wherein the feedback line is a bidirectional feedback line.

26. (new) The switching device according to claim 25, wherein via the bidirectional feedback line the signals are delivered from the converter to the at least one logic module.

27. (new) The switching device according to claim 20, wherein, for feedback systems of the at least two motors that cannot measure absolute values, the at least one

logic module is adapted to store actual position values of the at least two motors.

28. (new) The switching device according to claim 20, further comprising a changeover module, wherein the at least one logic module is a part of the changeover module.

29. (new) The switching device according to claim 28, wherein the changeover module comprises power switches for the at least two motors.

30. (new) The switching device according to claim 28, wherein power switches of the at least two motors are arranged outside of the changeover module.

31. (new) The switching device according to claim 30, wherein the power switches of the at least two motors are controlled by the changeover module.

32. (new) The switching device according to claim 20, wherein the converter is provided with an operations software enabling an administration, an actual value acquisition, and a control of several different sequentially operated positioning axes.

33. (new) A converter for a switching device according to claim 20, comprising an operations software enabling administration, actual value acquisition, and control of several different sequentially operated positioning axes.

34. (new) A switching device for controlling at least two motors, the device comprising:

- a single converter connected to the at least two motors;
- a multiplexer arranged downstream of the converter.

35. (new) The switching device according to claim 34, further comprising a decoder adapted to analyze data signals of the converter and further adapted, based on the analysis of the data signals, to generate for certain bit patterns N signals for controlling the multiplexer and a signal direction of bidirectional drivers connected to the multiplexer.

36. (new) The device according to claim 34, wherein the multiplexer switches N bidirectional data lines connected to the multiplexer.

37. (new) The device according to claim 34, wherein, when using interfaces with a CLOCK signal, the correlated drivers are deactivated for all inactive interfaces by a signal "output enable" OE.

38. (new) The device according to claim 34, wherein the decoder generates additional signals.

39. (new) The device according to claim 38, wherein the additional signals are independent of a control of the multiplexer.